

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-14 SWF-02 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 3925

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR EEC XF
SUBJ: US/EC CONSULTATIONS: EC/ARAB DIALOGUE-DISCUSSION
IN COMMITTEE I

REF: A. BONN 8767; B. BONN 8828; C. STATE 119120

1. SUMMARY. DURING THE US/EC CONSULTATIONS ON JUNE 6,
WE SRESSED TO THE COMMISSION OUR INTEREST IN CONSULTING
CLOSELY WITH THEM ON THE COMMUNITY'S PLANNED DIALOGUE
WITH THE ARABS. COMMISSION OFFICIALS RESPONDED CAUTIOUSLY,
POINTING OUT THAT PREPARATIONS FOR THE PROPOSED DIALOGUE
ARE STILL IN THE PROCEDURAL STAGE AND WITHIN JURISDICTION OF
EC NINE POLITICAL DIRECTORS. AS THE PREPARATIONS
REACH A MORE SUBSTANTIVE STAGE AND SPECIFIC
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TRADE AND ECONOMIC SUBJECTS UNDER COMMUNITY JURISDICTION

ARE CONSIDERED, THE COMMISSION WILL HANDLE THESE AS NORMAL COMMUNITY MATTERS AND BE WILLING TO CONSULT WITH US ON THIS BASIS. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING A DISCUSSION OF ENERGY IN COMMITTEE I OF THE US/EC CONSULTATIONS HELD JUNE 6 AND 7, ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN DISCUSSED THE COMMUNITY'S PROPOSED DIALOGUE WITH ARAB STATES ON EC/ARAB COOPERATION IN A RESTRICTED MEETING HEADED ON THE COMMISSION SIDE BY WELLENSTEIN, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS.

3. HARTMAN SAID THAT WE HAVE ENCOUNTERED THE PROBLEM OF WHERE WE CAN BEST TALK WITH THE EUROPEANS ON THIS SUBJECT. IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED TO US BY THE FRG THAT WE HAVE A FULL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH THE EC NINE WHILE THEY ARE IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING THEIR POSITION. WE HAVE HAD SOME DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GERMANS BUT OUR CONVERSATIONS THUS FAR HAVE DEALT MORE WITH PROCEDURE THAN SUBSTANCE. WE HAVE NOTED THAT THE COMMISSION APPEARS LIKELY TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY'S PREPARATIONS--THE ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL SUBSTANCE--AND WISHED THEREFORE TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT WITH THE COMMISSION.

4. WE HAVE STRESSED THAT IT IS USEFUL FOR THE COMMUNITY TO DEVELOP ITS RELATIONS WITH THE ARABS BECAUSE WE FEEL IT IMPORTANT THAT THE ARABS NOT HAVE AS THEIR ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO THE US A TURNING TO THE SOVIET UNION. HOWEVER, WHILE WE HAVE NO DESIRE TO SEE THE COMMUNITY EXCLUDED FROM PLAYING A ROLE, WE HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT MEETING WITH THE ARABS AS A GROUP BECAUSE CUREENT DYNAMICS OF MIDDLE EAST OFTEN LEAD TO RADICAL VIEWS PREVAILING IN SUCH MEETINGS. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE FOUND ARAB INTERESTS TO VARY ON GIVEN ISSUES. WE WOULD THERE FORE LIKE TO HEAR THE COMMISSION'S THINKING AND SHARE OUR EXPERIENCES OF RECENT MONTHS.

5. OUR INTENTION REGARDING THE SAUDIS IS TO DISCUSS WITH THEM THEIR INTEREST IN DEVELOPING AND BUILDING UP THEIR PETROLEUM RELATED INDUSTRIES, THE USE OF THEIR MONETARY RESERVES, AND THEIR INTEREST IN OBTAINING TECHNOLOGY AND CONFIDENTIAL

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TRAINED PERSONNEL. WE WOULD BE PLEASED TO SHARE INFOR- MATION WITH THE COMMUNITY ON OUR TALKS AS THEY DEVELOP. DISCUSSIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE UNDERWAY WITH SAUDI ARABIA MAY BE HELD IN THE FUTURE WITH IRAN AND WITH EGYPT. HARTMAN INDICATED THAT WE HAVE ALREADY DISCUSSED SOME DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONS WITH THE EGYPTIANS. HE UNDERScoreD EGYPT'S IMMEDIATE NEED FOR ASISTANCE AND THE POLITICAL RISKS THAT IT HAD RECENTLY TAKEN IN THE AREA.

6. WELLENSTEIN PREFACED HIS RESPONSE BY SAYING THAT WHILE THE COMMISSION IS PREPARED TO DISCUSS WITH US ANY SUBJECT WITHIN ITS JURISDICTION, POLITICAL COOPERATION CONSULTATION IS A SEPARATE SUBJECT AND DOES NOT INVOLVE THE COMMISSION AS SUCH. HOWEVER, HE MADE THE POINT, AND REPEATED IT IN HIS REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS TO THE PLENARY SESSION ON JUNE 7 (SEE SEPTTEL) THAT SEVERAL ITEMS IN THE PROPOSED DIALOGUE WITH THE ARABS, SUCH AS TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION AGREEMENTS, ARE WITHIN THE PROVINCE OF THE COMMISSION. THESE WILL BE TREATED AS NORMAL COMMUNITY MATTERS AND THE COMMISSION WILL BE PREPARED TO CONSULT WITH THE US ABOUT THEM ON THIS BASIS.

7. WELLENSTEIN WENT ON TO AGREE THAT THE MAIN POINT OF THE EC'S PREPARATIONS FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH ARAB REPRESENTATIVES TO DATE HAS BEEN PROCEDURAL. WHEN THE PREPARATIONS MOVE TO CONSIDERATION OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE PROPOSED DIALOGUE, IT IS LIKELY THAT MUCH OF THE CONTENT WILL FALL WITHIN THE COMMUNITY'S COMPETENCE. FOR EXAMPLE, NEGOTIATIONS WITH INDIVIDUAL ARAB STATES WOULD BE CONDUCTED BY THE COMMISSION WHERE COMMUNITY MATTERS ARE INVOLVED. HOWEVER, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO SAY AT THIS TIME EXACTLY HOW THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONDUCTING THE DIALOGUE WILL BE DIVIDED AMONG THE COMMISSION AND THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS. IT IS ALSO NOT YET CLEAR TO WHAT EXTENT THE EC-ARAB COOPERATION WILL BE CARRIED OUT ON A MULTILATERAL BASIS OR WILL BE TAILORED TO SPECIFIC BILATERAL OR SMALL GROUP ARRANGEMENTS.

8. WELLENSTEIN SAID THAT COMMISSIONER CHEYSSON HAD REPORTED ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMISSION IDEAS ON THE PROPOSED DIALOGUE TO THE LAST MEETING OF THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS IN BONN. THE COMMISSION IDEAS WILL BE USED TO GIVE SUBSTANCE TO THE

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DIALOGUE AFTER INITIAL CONTACTS HAVE BEEN MADE WITH THE ARAB STATES. THOSE INITIAL CONTACTS ARE PRESENTLY BEING MADE AND THE RATE AND THE NATURE OF THE NEXT STEPS WILL DEPEND ON THE REACTION FROM THE ARABS. THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS HAD SUGGESTED THAT SUBGROUPS BE ESTABLISHED FOR THE NEXT PHASE OF THE DIALOGUE BUT THIS SUGGESTION HAS NOT YET BEEN ADOPTED; WHETHER THESE SUBGROUPS ARE FORMED WILL ALSO DEPEND PARTIALLY UPON THE ARAB REACTION TO THE INITIAL CONTACTS.

9. WELLENSTEIN SAID, IN DISCUSSING THE GENERAL NATURE OF THE DIALOGUE, THAT AN OVERALL ASPECT OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND THE ARAB WORLD WILL BE TO SEEK A COMBINATION OF ARAB MONEY AND WESTERN TECHNOLOGY WHICH WILL HELP DEVELOP THE AREA. HE SAID THE DIALOGUE DID NOT REPRESENT AN EXTENSION OF THE COMMUNITY'S

MEDITERRANEAN POLICY. BECAUSE THE ARAB DIALOGUE IS A
BROADER AND NEW SUBJECT, THERE IS NOT YET FULL COUNCIL
AUTHORITY TO EXTEND COMMUNITY POLICY TO THE NEW AREA AND
THE COMMUNITY MUST PROCEED CAREFULLY.GREENWALD

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